

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for quantitatively and/or qualitatively detecting one or more components in one or more samples, said component capable of binding to a probe, comprising the steps in the following order:

a) applying one or more samples comprising components to be detected or one or more probes onto a solid support,

~~b) optionally storing solid support of step a) at a temperature between 0 and 10 degrees Celsius,~~

eb) incubating the solid support of step a) ~~or b)~~ with one or more tagged probes or tag-labeled sample comprising components to be detected,

dc) incubating the solid support with a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody directed against the tag of step eb), said antibody raised in species A and said antibody is optionally labelled~~labeled~~ with metal particles of average diameter between 0.6 nm and 40 nm,

ed) incubating the solid support with an antibody conjugate, said ~~polymer conjugate~~ comprising:

- one or more antibodies, anti-A, directed against immunoglobulins of species A,

- one or more antibodies, anti-B, directed against immunoglobulins of species B,

- ~~-optionally one or more substances which directly or indirectly cause a quantitative colour change compared with the solid support,~~

fe) incubating the solid support with a polypeptide capable of recognition by anti-B antibodies, said polypeptide labelled~~labeled~~ with one or more substances which directly or indirectly cause a quantitative ~~colour~~color change compared with the solid support, and

~~g) optionally incubating the solid support with a metal enhancement reagent and/or a colour change reagent that is a suitable substrate of an enzyme attached to the antibody conjugate, and~~

hf) incubating the solid support with a metal enhancement reagent, and

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g) reading the solid support to quantitatively and/or qualitatively detect said components.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to claim 1 wherein step a) is a)~~ comprises applying one or more probes onto a solid support, and step ~~eb) is e)~~ comprises incubating solid supports with tag-~~labelled~~ labeled sample.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to elaims 1 and 2~~ claim 1 wherein step ~~eb) is~~ absent and step d) is d) comprises incubating the solid supports with the tag-labeled sample comprising components to be detected and wherein said antibody in step c) comprises a metal-particle-~~labelled~~ labeled anti-component monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, said antibody raised in species A.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to any of elaims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 further comprising the steps, after step ~~fe)~~ fe), of:

~~fe-1)~~ fe-1) repeating steps ~~ed)~~ ed) to ~~fe)~~ fe), and

~~fe-2)~~ fe-2) optionally repeating step ~~f-e1)~~ f-e1).

5. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to elaims 2 to 4~~ claim 2 wherein the solid support is supplied with probe pre- applied, and step a) is not performed by the user.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to elaims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the reading of step ~~h.g)~~ h.g) comprises the use of a ~~colour~~ color chart.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A- The method according to elaims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein the reading of step ~~h.g)~~ h.g) comprises the use of a device suitable for detecting changes in conductance and/or current across the solid support at the positions at which said samples are applied.

8-27. (Cancelled)

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28. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 1 ~~to 7, 21 to 23, and a kit according to claims 8 to 20 and 24 to 27~~ wherein said tag is biotin.

29. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 1 ~~to 7, 21 to 23, and a kit according to claims 8 to 20 and 24 to 28~~ wherein said polypeptide capable of recognition by anti-B antibodies is ~~labelled~~ labeled with gold particles and/or alkaline phosphatase.

30. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the solid support of step a) at a temperature between 0 and 10 degrees Celsius.

31. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody conjugate further comprises one or more substances which directly or indirectly cause a quantitative color change compared with the solid support.

32. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising incubating the solid support with a color change reagent that is a suitable substrate of an enzyme attached to the antibody conjugate polymer after step f).

33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the metal particle is gold.